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EROTICA

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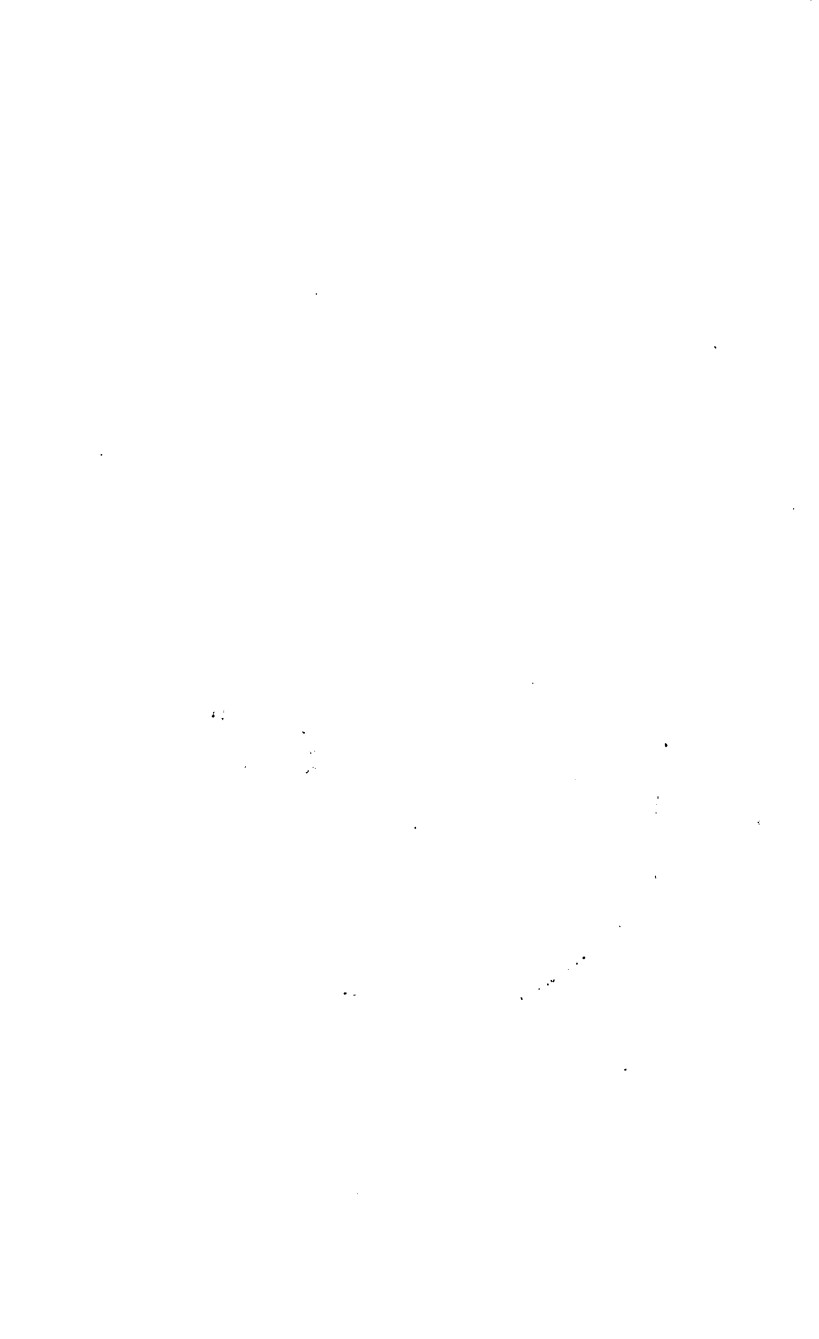


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**Erotica.**

Of this Edition two hundred and fifty copies have been  
printed for sale.

No. ~~.....~~







# Erotica.

BY

ARTHUR CLARK KENNEDY

GAY AND BIRD

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## Life's Beauty

ALL life's beauty lies in love,  
Love whose touch transposes  
Barren field to flowery mead  
Where the amorini tread  
Ankle-deep in roses.

Let thy glamour, mighty Love,  
All my youth prolong,  
Youth that cannot be withstood,  
Making this my solitude  
Clamorous with song.



## A Portrait

SHOT gold and shadow brown, her glorious hair  
Seemeth to hold faint sunbeams tangled where  
Its mazy ringlets cluster o'er a brow  
Built low and broad, which shines as white as snow.  
Rose-tinted cheek, straight nose, and pouting mouth,  
Breath laden with all spices of the south,  
Whose lips' red luscious ripeness draw my soul  
Out of my breast. Her form's distracting whole  
Perfection from the tiny close-set ear  
O'er shapely neck and bosom which appear  
Smooth swelling fields to court an amorous kiss  
(Ah, what a banquet for my soul were this),  
Melting in gracious lines t'wards hands and feet  
Fashioned Titania-like for any faery meet—  
No fault; no flaw; Love spreads a cloudless sky  
In her unfathomable eyes, till I,  
Bending my lips to hers, become, alas, aware  
That in her chin deceit lurks dimpled there.

## Lord of All

To love and be beloved,  
To snatch ripe kisses from red lips of youth  
Is of a truth  
Earth's utmost blessing, this even I have proved.

To kiss and clasp fresh charms  
In eager arms,  
To wring Love's moisture from the inmost core  
Of a deep heart and hunger still for more,  
Is to be lord of Love.

Sweetheart, when thou and I,  
In very ecstasy,  
Transfuse our souls in death,  
Each panting amorous breath  
But wafts us to the sky.

The goal of our desire  
We reach with brain on fire,  
But reach it to expire.

Alas, how low the fall  
When passions duller burn;  
Then Life begins to spurn  
Love that will not return;  
And Death is lord of all,

## A Vision

Lo, all her body clothed with love,  
Meet for the kisses of a King,  
My lady cometh, and the spring  
Scatters its sweetness from above.

Through gates of horn she issueth,  
Down pathways of the land of dreams,  
Her footsteps softly fall, she seems  
Re-risen from the hand of death.

The violets bud beneath her tread,  
The teeming earth in tongues of flame  
Spits lambent crocus shoots, with shame  
Each challenged snowdrop hangs its head.

She stands and stretches out to me  
Her white arms, whiter than desire,  
Some seven times heated in God's fire ;  
All Love's alluring bravery

Glow in her slight transfigured frame,  
My heart throbs wildly in my breast,  
Charged with vague yearnings, long supprest  
As her lips move to form my name.

But ere one syllable can pass  
Those red lips where my lips have kissed,  
The vision rolls up like a mist,  
Or breath that fadeth from a glass,

Leaving me lone with longing cries  
Choked backward, whilst my surcharged sight  
Aches sparkingly, as closing night  
Thickens its pressure on my eyes.

## Take Thou My Love

TAKE thou my love, I give it all to thee  
As space far-reaching, deep as the deep sea,  
It grew for thee alone, and only thee,  
Take thou my love.

Heed not the love that others offer thee,  
Dregs of some other love's satiety,  
Mere bankrupts are they, spending thriftlessly;  
Heed not their love.

Take, then, my love, 'tis Fate's ordained decree,  
Let it encompass, thrill through, melt in thee,  
Making us one to all eternity;  
Take, then, my love.

## Regeneration

LO ! Love leaned o'er thy cradle at thy birth,  
And laid his lips on thine a moment's space,  
Breathing faint laughter and desire of mirth  
Into thy soul, and something not of earth  
Now mocks me from thy face.

Fain would I raise an answer in those eyes  
My hungry eyes look into, but there lurks  
Low laughter in their depths, like radiant skies  
That from their azure battlements despise  
Earth's earnest toilsome works.

They float above the knowledge of things gross,  
Serenely still and smiling through the void,  
And yet methinks theirs is an unknown loss,  
Not theirs contrasted peace, nor tempests' toss  
Followed by calms enjoyed.

So will I pray that Love's lips set their seal  
Once more on thine, that thou be born again  
Of this earth earthy ; let Love's lips reveal  
Secrets of laughter turned to tears and deal  
Out Love's delicious pain.



## Love's Guidance

GIVE me thy hand and guide me, Love,  
Where golden blossoms gem those fields  
Through which Life's waters gently move  
Bearing the lilies' silver shields  
Upon her breast, past lowing herds,  
Neath shady haunts of building birds  
Whose carols greet the Spring when yields  
Nature to Love.

When Spring is past stay with me, Love,  
When wolds lie panting under June,  
When tempering earthward tears to prove  
Heaven's pity cease to fall, we swoon  
Wrapped in heat's hazy hanging mist  
With seeming far-off souls and list  
To that immeasurable tune  
Nature plays—Love.

When whiter weather holds the land  
In iron chains and shrill alarms  
The north winds blow, take thou my hand  
Again, Oh Love, and from all harms  
Bred errant ways withdraw my feet,  
Leading me to thy kingdom sweet,  
Of changeless skies, where in thine arms  
Enfold me, Love !

## Above Sonnenburg

THE crumbling ruins of the past  
Are left behind and on the hill  
We rest our horses and are still ;  
Thought alone stirs, while from the vast  
Stone quarries sounds the clinking drill.

So, loved one, leave behind the strife  
And wreckage of your past ; we'll take  
Fresh stone from the fair future, make  
Ourselves a house of light and life ;  
Your eyes were sealed, you now awake.

## The Sleeping Beauty

SHE slept whilst chains of servitude  
Were round her rivetted,  
Her palace walls were hung about  
With cere-cloths of the dead,  
The rank weeds sprang within her courts,  
Wild briars fenced her gate ;  
For seven long years the spell had worked—  
Comes then the Prince too late?

Lo ! from her fair limbs fall the chains,  
The rank weeds fade away ;  
Her Prince awakes her with a kiss  
And knowledge brings the day.

## Spring

UNCHAIN your heart, cast off the bands  
Imposed by social customs' care,  
By laws of man. Be free as air—  
Shake off those so-called friendly hands

That hold you back from following  
The dictates Nature planted there,  
List to her voice within your ear!  
"Awake and love, it is the Spring."

My Love, awake. It is the Spring!  
Let all the envious world roll by,  
Above us bends the bright blue sky  
Where mounts the lark on fluttering wing

The distant cooing of the dove,  
The blackbird, linnet, finch and thrush,  
In madrigals from every bush  
And varied accents, say "We love."

'Tis good to live, 'tis good to love—  
God's greatest gift, so freely given,  
To man below, foretaste of heaven  
Has come to us, let us then prove

Its golden value in the scales  
'Gainst earthly gold. The merest dross  
And tinsel seems earth's gold. The loss  
Of all the world holds dear avails

Nothing against such perfect wealth  
As we in Love's own land to-day  
Gather with both hands. Let us pray  
That Love walk hand in hand with Health.

Health is for Love a fitting mate,  
And on such guardian's rainbow wings  
We well may pass Earth's fiery rings  
And smile contempt on sordid Fate.

## Carpe Diem



LET us learn all that love can teach,  
Dear heart, while we and love are young ;  
Too soon, alas, Life's bark will reach  
Those sandy shores, that thirsty beach,  
Lashed by the sad wave's tongue.

For Love will land us on that strand  
Strewn with gaunt ribs of former wrecks,  
If we, indifferent to command,  
Handle no ropes, but idly stand  
Along the uncared-for decks.

## Star Worship

WHOSO adores a star  
Must worship it afar,

Until one day, mayhap,  
'Twill drop into his lap.

And then, for such are men,  
He'll cast it forth again.

He only loves a star  
Who worships it afar.



## I Love My Love

I LOVE my Love because my Love loves me.  
Ah ! that she did so as I'd fain be loved  
With love by which the mountains may be moved,  
Uprooted and cast in the midmost sea.

Such love surpassing, deep and broad and high,  
O'ershadowing all things else in earth, in heaven,  
Love unalloyed at morn, at noon, at even,  
Love unalloyed when darkness holds the sky.

A Love that overcometh and will prove  
Itself through storm and sunshine, frost and fire ;  
A Love which naught can change, which naught  
can tire,  
Even Death's self can not destroy such love.

So, Sweet, let me set seal upon your mouth  
And lie within your arms' encircling fold,  
Gaze in your eyes, and in their depth behold  
Twin starry loves whilst all the balmy South

Gives up her richest spices in your breath,  
When heart tumultuously doth beat on heart,  
The while our spirits mingle ne'er to part  
Wholly again, though earthly ties by Death

Are severed, 'tis but for a time, and then  
Our spirits will commingle and commune,  
Each with the other strung to Love's one tune  
And the sweet memories of what has been.

For past and present still to us belong,  
To you and I, dear Love, then wherefore waste  
Thoughts on the unknown future, rather taste  
The sweets of life and do not call it wrong

To be too happy. Let us therefore cast  
An offering to the Gods like those of old  
Strove to appease the Deity who held  
The compensating balances. And last,

When this life's cup is drunken to the lees,  
Leaving its after-taste upon your tongue,  
You yet will kiss my lips with lips unwrung  
By bitterness regretful. On my knees

I pray you, Sweetheart, to be wise in time.  
You cannot change the Ethiop's dusky skin !  
The leopard's spots ! So leave him with his sin  
Ere his contagion drags you through more slime.

The false God whom you worshipp'd shall lie dead,  
His groves hewn down, his altar overthrown ;  
Peace, happiness, and love shall be your own,  
Three golden halos hung above your head.

For you have eaten of the tree of life  
After the tree of knowledge, and shall live  
Another life, and all the past shall give  
Its blackness up, its sorrow, sin, and strife,

To form a background for the fair "to be,"  
Which we'll embroider with love's golden skein  
The story of your past, of false love slain  
And true love shrined upon its memory.

The past shall be a dream ; you will awake  
And wonder could such things have ever been.  
Your scars of slavery which now are green  
Shall be no more. You will arise and take

Within your grasp that fellow hand which Fate  
At length has guided to its destined end.  
We grope the whole world round until we bend  
Our steps predoom'd through Love's celestial gate.

## Even though I were Dead

**EVEN** though I were dead,  
Cold, and divorced from men,  
My heart would leap up again  
In hurried throbs at your tread,  
Passing it overhead.

## Had We but Met

AH, Love, had we but met before,  
When standing at the gate of life,  
Ere we had opened wide that door—  
Now, I a husband, you a wife,  
Have met too late. Ah, say not so,  
You would have loved me years ago.

Then why not now ! What earthly ties  
Made by mankind can bind our souls  
Which rush together ! Let us rise  
Above such bondage. What controls  
A love like ours ? 'Tis not of earth,  
But from Promethean fires has birth.

'Tis no low-born material flame,  
Fanned by the breath of lustful men,  
That flickers fiercely first, then tame,  
Then fiercely once again, and then  
Dies down into grey embers, cold  
Because this life seems growing old !

Nay, let our love, Sweet, vanquish Time,  
Cast out all fear, forget the past  
And its attendant ills—sublime  
Stretches the future's vista—vast  
Potentialities therein,  
To love is surely not a sin !

'Tis far more sinful, Sweet, to me,  
To yield yourself up to abuse  
Of lust in guise of love, than be  
Freely beloved. That man's vile use,  
Though sanctioned by our social creed,  
Has left your body poor indeed.

## Question and Answer

### SHE

WHEN Time has robbed me of my years,  
And tell-tale lines invest my eyes  
With channels ploughed by dint of tears,  
Whilst here and there a hair appears  
Turned silver by Time's sighs.

For he has come quite unawares  
And breathed his sighs upon my head,  
Whilst I, weighed down with earthly cares,  
Have recked not of the passing years,  
But sought my daily bread.

Love, will you love me as you say  
You love me now, when I am old  
And all my beauty fades away,  
Like autumn tints when turning gray.  
Leave life a tale near told.

### HE

I love you not for what you were  
Or what you are, though silver gleams  
May nestle in your sunny hair,  
And envious crows plant feet of care  
About your eyes, my hourly dreams

Hold but your image, sweetest heart,  
Deep set within a shrine of gold,  
With it I live a life apart  
Where time is not, and like my art,  
You never can grow old.



## Once

SHE kissed me once, 'twas long ago,  
But something subtle in me stirred  
As if the vans of some great bird  
Had fanned my blood into a glow  
'Twas something wasteful, wild yet sweet,  
Intangible, without a name,  
But through my veins with sudden heat  
It passed and burst into a flame—  
'Twas molten once that lava stream,  
Ran with red riotings, but now

It cannot melt the winter snow  
That time has piled upon my brow !  
Oh ! Time, how long ago it seems  
Since first I dreamt those golden dreams  
And in Love's school remained a dunce.  
You've robbed my locks of pristine sheen,  
But there's one memory always green,  
Immutable, you cannot steal ;  
For still, 'twixt dusk and dawn I feel  
The kiss with which she kissed me once.

## 'Twixt Ivory Pales

RONDEAU

'TWIXT ivory pales uprose a precious dome,  
A shrine thatched over where no man might come,  
For vestals only could the entrance win  
To worship her who sat enthroned therein—  
A Goddess fresh begotten of the foam.

Until one day I that way chanced to roam,  
Half open stood the gateway in the gloom,  
Revealing splendours of the shrine within  
    'Twixt ivory pales.

Marshalling my forces without beat of drum,  
The next dark night when Nature' face was dumb,  
I forced the ward and swiftly entered in  
Regardless of the sacrilege and sin.  
The shrine was mine—and now I call it home  
    'Twixt ivory pales.

## How Shall I Woo Thee?

How shall I woo thee, Love?  
Under the lang'rous noon,  
Bringing thee roses red  
And redder gold, to spread  
Speech till thy senses swoon?  
Or when the twilight falls,  
With the soft aid  
Of music, heavenly maid,  
Scaling thy walls?

How shall I win thee, Love?  
Standing forth in the sun,  
Claiming thee as the meed  
Of some heroic deed  
Greatly dared, greatly done?  
Or with my wistful eyes,  
Flattering thy sunny face,  
Praising thy stately grace,  
Silence's prize?

How shall I wear thee, Love?  
Throned mid the flaunted crowd,  
Lifted aloft and crowned  
With men's applause, the sound  
Making me proud?  
Or shrined within my heart,  
Hidden where none may come,  
Under a golden dome  
Always apart.

## Possession

AROUND my neck her soft arms twine,  
My kisses fleck her bosom's snow,  
Her breath intoxicates like wine,  
And sends the blood's imperious flow  
Mantling across my eyes; I know  
At last that she is wholly mine.

And I am hers. Each pulse of me  
Beats red rebellion, and each vein  
Swells with an overwhelming sea  
Of sad, glad, pleasurable pain  
Pervading every sense, my brain  
Throbs with a mad intensity.

Passing through realms of star and cloud,  
Scaling the mountains of the moon,  
My soul ascends, my body bowed  
O'er her fair form in seeming swoon,  
Unstrung by Love's almighty tune,  
Reels far below ; sensations crowd

Upon sensations, like the waves  
Follow waves shorewards, so they beat  
Upon my being ; each one paves  
The way for its successor's feet  
To follow faster, till with heat  
Made faint, they trip among the graves

Of former joys ; confused they fall  
Dead 'mid dead ashes scattered there.  
Earthbound once more, and stripped of all  
Illusions, through the breathless air  
My soul sinks slowly back, aware  
Of waiting Sleep's incorporate pall.



## In Italy

GIVE us the sun and give us love,  
A western breeze on a sapphire sea,  
Heaven below and heaven above,  
Heaven for thee and me.

A western breeze to fan our sails  
Lazily flapping against the mast,  
Facing the ocean with rippling scales  
Drawing to port at last,

As we hail our casa's whited walls,  
Where olive-trees gemm'd with the fireflies' light  
Stand fringing the groves whence Philomel calls  
To the liquid soul of night.

And scents lie heavy upon the air,  
From orange blossoms cloying the breath,  
And a soothing hum that numbs the ear  
Comes from the town beneath.

Till a mist creeps over the hill, shuts down  
On our home's white walls and o'erhanging eaves,  
And the nightingales hush as the distant town  
Puts out her lights and leaves

The rest of the night to darkness and love  
Consecrated to thee and me,  
Whilst my world spins on about and above,  
Centred in thee.

## Changes

THE sea is the same, yet not the same,  
The sky is the same, yet not the sky  
That was over our heads when we hitherward came  
Just a year ago, my Love and I.

For then, my Love, you loved me true,  
Blue was the sea and blue the sky,  
Beautiful both in their azure hue,  
But colours will fade and love will die.

Cold and grey are the sea and sky,  
Waves are swelling against the shore,  
Bearing you far from me ; and I  
List to their crooning of 'nevermore.'

## An Appeal

My love is all too great for speech,  
The words that swell upon my tongue  
Fall still-born back, unsaid, unsung ;  
    Canst not divine  
The mute appeal that shines from each  
Of my soul's windows, lit within  
By burning love, yet does not win  
    Return from thine ?

O, let one answering look appease  
The thirst of life's parched desert lands,  
Down the long reaches of whose sands  
    I wander lone,  
Then shall the wilderness with trees  
Bud, in whose branches all day long  
Birds shall awake and break in song  
    For thee mine own.

## Love the Voyager

YOUNG Love unfurled his silken sail,  
And in his boat of ivory pale  
Went sliding down the weather.  
By sunny shores of golden isles  
Their hills o'ertopped for miles on miles  
With ruddy helms of heather.

Over seas to a shady bay,  
Where, lotus-locked, enchanted lay  
He and his boat together,  
Unwotting of the days that flew  
In one long monotone of blue,  
From waning summer's tether.

Till heaven darkened, and the rain,  
Smoking athwart the watery plain,  
Fell down with wintry weather ;  
Then, like a lark that upward flies,  
Love swiftly lessened through the skies,  
On winnowing feather.

But the poor boat drifts on, resigned  
To furies of the wave and wind,  
And wintry weather.

## A Reflection

HOLDING a mirror in an idle hand,  
I chanced to breath thereon,  
When through the film there gleamed  
A sudden face that seemed  
Hers I had made my own  
Once in that far-off sunny stranger land,

Once, and once only, had I held her, kissed .  
Her eyes that through her hair  
Shone starlike, lit with heat  
From fires that throbbed and beat  
In her brown bosom bare,  
Long blanch'd since then beneath Time's nether mist.



I had not thought of her for years on years,  
Nor thought I of her when  
I breathed, and brought her back  
Down memory's vagrant track,  
Sweet even now as then,  
But seen, alas, through blurring haze of tears

That sprang unbidden to my startled eyes,  
When that face on my gaze  
Burned sudden-wise, and I  
Bent down with a great cry,  
As in those far-off days  
I bent to her red mouth 'neath alien skies.

Though the film fading from the surface glass  
Banished her from my mind,  
It left a sharp regret  
That rankles even yet  
Implanted there behind,  
For that lost day, regret that will not pass.

## Oh Love, my Love, I love you so

LIKE petals shaken from a rose  
Beneath the noontide heat,  
So fell her loving words on him  
Where he knelt at her feet,  
In tender accents, sweet and low,  
"Oh Love, my Love, I love you so !

"I love you, love me, or I die,  
Fainting beneath Love's fire  
Which burns my very life-blood black  
By breath of my desire.  
Kiss these my bosoms white as snow,  
And quench their flame's devouring glow.

"Freely I yield myself to you,  
Throne you my King, my Lord,  
Your smile a crown of light to me,  
Your frown a very sword.  
Oh Love, my Love, I love you so,  
Your silence strikes me as a blow."

Then he replied with heart too full  
For any sudden speech,  
By holding up his arms to her,  
And as each clung to each,  
Mixed with the fountain's murmurous flow  
I heard "Oh Love, I love you so!"

That long kiss sanctified a year,  
A month, a week, a day.  
Perhaps 'twas but an hour, who knows?  
Time stays for such as they.  
Love counts not time, but this I know,  
'Twas very, very long ago.

## She Walked Through Fire

Pure, untouched, even as she came  
She passed, unsullied and the same.

SHE walked through fire, a hungry flame  
Leapt up to lick and lap her o'er,  
Then backward flung its head in shame,  
Nor crisped the letters of her name,  
Along the glowing ashen floor.  
Spotless amid a motley crew  
She passed the fiery ordeal through  
Unhurt, begirt as with a fence  
Of innocence.

Joyous she was, and ever gay,  
Though an occasional April day  
Would steal across her heaven. For her  
The flames were bright and beautiful,  
And each tongue seemed to minister  
A pleasant warmth unto her soul ;  
Her light-breathed laughter drove them back  
To line the path her feet would track,  
Her sunny tears reflected them.

Ah, happy, happy, wayward child,  
Bright contradiction, when you smiled  
Upon the flames, they danced in glee,  
Or crept to kiss and clasp your knee,  
As suppliants subdued and tame.

How did you pass those fiery ways,  
And come from out the midmost blaze  
No smell of burning on your hair ?

Because my love o'ershadowed you,  
Because your heart was pure and true  
Where'er you were.

## Kismet

We both shed many bitter tears,  
But married in the after years,  
    And then  
We once more parted. In the street,  
As strangers now, we never greet  
    Each other.  
I saw you walking yesterday,  
Beside you, slightly streaked with grey,  
    Your brother,  
Reminding me of years that range  
Against us. Soon the latest change  
    Will come,

O'er you, o'er me, o'er him, o'er all,  
The summoning funereal

To Home.

And when

Absolved from this world's toil and heat,  
I wonder shall we ever meet

Again?

For in that other world the dead  
Know each and all things—so 'tis said—

And there

The words that here Pride could not say  
For once and all would clear away

Despair.

## My Cot

I OWN a dainty little cot  
Begirt about with roses,  
Standing in a shady spot  
Amid most verdant closes.

The door was bolted, locked and barred,  
All entrance was denied there,  
They vainly sought to force the ward  
Who tried before I tried there.

They tried with gold and silver keys,  
With vows and protestations,  
They summoned every art to please,  
Exotics of all nations.



Then others with a diamond tried  
To cut the window pane,  
But still the entrance was denied,  
Their labour was in vain.

The house, to whom did it belong,  
And I possession win?  
I breathed myself into a song,  
And so I entered in.

## Francesca

STATELY she moved, my lady, through the wood,  
With lingering footfalls following her own thought  
Which like a child at random, heeding naught,  
Sped on before, one of a merry brood  
As yet by Love untaught.

Upon the turf I lay in musing mood,  
Pillowed by some gnarl-rooted forest tree,  
And watched that vision passing silently  
As in a dream, till all at once she stood  
Struck still at sight of me.

Twin starry sapphires swinging in her ears  
Gave silent challenge to her liquid eyes  
Which challenged mine awhile in mute surmise  
Or e'er she spake.—Even so across the years  
She cometh to me yet, but veiled, alas, with tears.

## A Lustrum

A LUSTRUM has not sped since first we met.  
How many shall have ere we meet again?  
Thou hast gone forth from this our world of pain  
Leaving me heavy-hearted, with eyes wet,  
Before my manhood's empty shrine—and yet  
I'd fain believe we did not love in vain.

## **“ One Year Saw Twain Made One ”**

**ONE year saw twain made one  
And one become as three,  
Then he remained alone  
For they had ceased to be.  
Fair graft and blossom failing left a scarred tree !**

**— O solitary soul,  
Not here, nor yet, thy goal.**

## A Queen

A QUEEN—he loved her,  
His queen—he moved her  
For she was human.

Ermine robes, jewelled crown,  
Thrust aside, thrown down,  
Left but a woman.

And did they blame her?  
Or could it shame her?  
No! love became her.

## Who Is She?

DEAR women pass before me in my dreams,  
Dear women dead whose red lips I have kissed,  
In sweet succession smiling through a mist  
Of many unshed tears, but yet it seems  
One woman stands behind me, who is she?

— She stands behind me silently. Alas,  
I cannot see, but feel her presence there,  
The soft reflected radiance of her hair  
Lights up the gloom, but still she will not pass,  
This ever silent woman, who is she?

For hunger of this woman yet unseen,  
Whose presence felt is seared upon my brain,  
My heart pervaded by her scent is fain  
To beat no more for women who have been,  
Or are, but only for her. Who is she?



## Stay, Oh Day

DAY is lying dying,  
Comes the night.  
Fate is flying, flying,  
Take thou hold of fate,  
Or at least by trying  
To arrest his flight,  
A short respite buying,  
Still there may be light,  
And too late  
Comes the night.

Doth Love but live in daylight?  
Love is blind.  
Daylight or the dark  
Love's electric spark  
Makes Earth's darkness bright.  
Night is day—day, night,  
Equal in his sight,  
Love is blind.

Still night will come at last,  
And the skies  
Denser shadows cast  
Where Love lies,  
Surfeited and weary,  
While the twilight dreary  
Deepens, darkens, dies.  
Life and love are past  
At the last.

## Wert Cold and Chill

WERT cold and chill  
In thy death-trance lying,  
I'd pluck thee still  
From the midmost dying,<sup>1</sup>  
A cure for thine ill  
With my heart-blood buying.

Thy cheeks' pale ashes  
Should burn and glow,  
Through lifting lashes  
Thy soul should show  
Redeemed from the cachés  
Of under-woe.

E'en death's endeavour  
Were vain to part,  
For I'd hold thee ever  
Against my heart,  
Allaying its fever  
And passionate smart.

## Love Given and Denied

A LOVE, that one would give his soul to win  
And an hereafter heaven,  
Denied unto his life's devotion  
Is lightly given  
Unto a false emotion.  
A few low words, soft hand-clasps, shaded eyes  
Of passing thoughtful carelessness, the prize  
Falls from its place into 'what might have been.'

## Sweet Contradiction

SWEET contradiction is the soul  
Of every woman. When I burned  
With love, poured passionate words, heart whole  
She laughed, but when aside I turned  
To note another's wistful look  
Whence spake a world unutterable,  
At once she stood between us, took  
My hand in hers, her bosom rose and fell,  
Her eyes she kept downcast a little space,  
And then her lips were lifted to my face.

## Dear Little Feet

DEAR little feet which fain must press  
The ways of this world's wickedness,  
    When older grown,  
May God send down His brightest rays  
To guide ye through the stir and stress,  
Into the paths of prayer and praise  
    Towards His throne.

## Because

BECAUSE in years ago  
Two people lived and loved,  
Because two hearts were moved  
By the same mighty throe  
That thrilled them through and through,  
A nation is alive.

A nation is alive,  
Though he and she are dead.  
From that glad marriage-bed  
Their spirits still survive,  
And to the ages give  
Their immortality.



Their immortality,  
Blent in their children's child,  
Glad, sad or mad, or mild,  
What was, still is, must be,  
Like the eternal sea,  
Ever in ebb and flow.

Ever in ebb and flow  
Their immortality  
Beats onward like the sea.  
Because in years ago  
Two people lovèd, lo !  
A nation is alive.

## I Called in Vain

I CALLED in vain unto the night,  
To shew me heaven and heaven's God ;  
I asked the sea who ruled her might  
As with a rod.

I asked of all the winds the same,  
If they too served this unknown God,  
And from his footstool went and came,  
Swayed by his nod.

I sought an answer from a star,  
But it hung in the voiceless void,  
And on my quest I wandered far  
Unsatisfied.

Until I whispered to the ground,  
"O, Mother Earth, canst thou not prove  
That such exist?" and then I found  
My heaven, your arms ; my God, your love !

## Revolution

My bed still bears the imprint of thy form,  
A faint perfume still hangs upon the air,  
Like dying roses, but no longer warm  
This breast so wont thy loveliness to wear.

Mere outline of what was, the skeleton  
Of former joyfulness denied me now ;  
The shrine is empty and no queen upon  
My heart's throne reigns with love-anointed brow.

The queen is dead. Set up another queen.  
Nay, for their reign is over, and I can  
No more support such despots. They have been.  
I'll rule myself, a state republican.

# Who Goes Home?

RONDEAU

WHEN "Who goes home?" a voice stentorian calls,  
Re-echoing through corridors and halls,  
    To faithful Commons met in grave debate,  
    When lights are lowered and the hour is late,  
Grateful on weary ears that summons falls.

Slowly with shadowy footsteps sleep installs  
Silence within old Westminster's grey walls,  
Peace reigns in place of party passionate  
    When all go home.

When thinner blood through this my body crawls,  
And slackening sense is bound in Death's dark thralls,  
Love, shall I find you waiting at the gate  
With open arms? Ah! may that be my fate  
When I go home.

FINIS.

5

**ERRATUM.**—Page 31, *for* “**flaunted**” *read* “**flaunting**.”

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